ex's amendment to claims 5, 13, 21 and 32, 35, 38

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for formatting space on a storage device for a database system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) formatting a first increment in the storage device for creating a database file; and

(b) asynchronously formatting at least one subsequent increment in the storage device for the database file as a concurrent task of the database system, wherein the asynchronously formatting step (b) further includes the step of:

(b1) asynchronously formatting the at least one subsequent increment in response to occupation of a previous increment reaching a threshold of less than one hundred percent occupation of the previous increment.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the concurrent task is a background process.

3. (Previously Canceled)

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the previous increment has a threshold of one-half.

5. (Previously Amended) A method for formatting space on a storage device for a database system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) formatting a first increment in the storage device for creating a database file; and

(b) asynchronously formatting at least one subsequent increment in the storage device for the database file as a concurrent task of the database system; wherein the asynchronously formatting step (b) further includes the step of:

(b1) starting formatting of the at least one subsequent increment for the database file as a background process when data are first stored in a previous increment.

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6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Amended) A method for formatting space in a storage device for a database system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) formatting a first increment in the storage device for creating a database file;

(b) triggering the database system to asynchronously format at least one subsequent increment in response to occupation of the a previous increment reaching a threshold; and

(c) asynchronously formatting at least one subsequent increment for the database file as a concurrent task;

wherein the threshold is less than one hundred percent occupation of the previous increment.

8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the concurrent task is a background process.

9. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program for formatting space in a storage device for a database system, the program including instructions for:

(a) formatting a first increment in the storage device for creating a database file; and

(b) asynchronously formatting at least one subsequent increment in the storage device for the database file as a concurrent task of the database system, wherein the asynchronously formatting instruction (b) further includes instructions for:

(b1) asynchronously formatting the at least one subsequent increment for the database file in response to occupation of a previous increment reaching a threshold of less than one hundred percent occupation of the previous increment.

10. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the concurrent task is a background process.

11. (Previously Canceled)

12. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the previous increment has a threshold of one-half.

13. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program for formatting space in a storage device for a database system, the program including instructions for:

(a) formatting a first increment in the storage device for creating a database file; and

(b) asynchronously formatting at least one subsequent increment in the storage device for the database file as a concurrent task of the database system, wherein the asynchronously formatting instruction (b) further includes instructions for:

(b1) starting formatting of the at least one subsequent increment for the database file as a background process when data are first being stored in a previous increment.

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14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable medium for formatting space in a storage device for a database system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) formatting a first increment in the storage device for creating a database file;

(b) triggering the database system to asynchronously format at least one subsequent increment in response to occupation of a previous increment reaching a particular threshold; and

(c) asynchronously formatting at least one subsequent increment for the database file as a concurrent task;

wherein the threshold is less than one hundred percent occupation of the previous increment.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the concurrent task is a background process.

17. (Previously Amended) A computer system for storing and retrieving data, the computer system comprising:

a storage device for archiving the data;

a database system coupled with the storage device, to control storing and retrieving the data, the database system including a formatting block for formatting a first increment of the storage device to store a portion of a database file and for asynchronously formatting at least one subsequent increment in the storage device for the database file as a concurrent task of the database system;

wherein the formatting block asynchronously formats the at least one subsequent increment by formatting the at least one subsequent increment for the database file in response to occupation of a previous increment reaching a threshold of less than one hundred percent occupation of the previous increment.

18. (Original) The computer system of claim 17 wherein the concurrent task is a background process.

19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Previously Amended) The computer system of claim 18 wherein the previous increment has a threshold of one-half.

21. (Previously Amended) A computer system for storing and retrieving data, the computer system comprising:

a storage device for archiving the data;

a database system coupled with the storage device, to control storing and retrieving the data, the database system including a formatting block for formatting a first increment of the storage device to store a portion of a database file and for asynchronously formatting at least one subsequent increment in the storage device for the database file as a concurrent task of the database system;

wherein the formatting block asynchronously formats the at least one subsequent increment by starting formatting of the at least one subsequent increment for the database file as a background process when data are first being stored in a previous increment.

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22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Amended) A computer system storing and retrieving data, the computer system comprising:

a storage device for archiving the data; and

a database system coupled with the storage device, for storing and retrieving the data, the database system including a formatting block for formatting a first increment in the storage device for creating a database file, triggering the database system to asynchronously format at least one subsequent increment in response to occupation of a previous increment reaching a threshold of less than one hundred percent occupation of the previous increment, and asynchronously formatting at least one subsequent increment for the database file as a concurrent task.

24. (Original) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the concurrent task is a background process.

25. (Previously Canceled).

26. (Previously Canceled).

27. (Previously Canceled).

28. (Previously Canceled).

29. (Previously Canceled).

30. (Previously Canceled).

31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously Added) The method of claim 5 wherein the formatting step (b1) further includes:

(b1i) only formatting the at least one subsequent increment for use by the database system by starting formatting of the at least one subsequent increment for the database file as a background process when data are first being stored in a previous increment.

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33. (Canceled).

34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously Added) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the formatting instructions (b1) further includes:

(b1i) only formatting the at least one subsequent increment for use by the database system by starting formatting of the at least one subsequent increment for the database file as a background process when data are first stored in a previous increment.

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36. (Canceled).

37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously Added) The computer system of claim 21 wherein the formatting block only formats the at least one subsequent increment by starting formatting of the at least one subsequent increment for the database file as a background process when data are first stored in a previous increment.

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39. (Canceled).